

September 29, 2006

September 27, 2006 – Community Representative Project Meeting

Building Details and Design Elements to Consider

Community representatives met with the design team for the 8th and 9th Street Project for a second time on September 27, 2006. Moving forward with information and ideas gathered from their initial meeting on September 13th, the focus was on the size of the building, orientation, and building details that were of importance to the representatives of the community. Representatives from the APVA Preservation Virginia, Historic Richmond Foundation, ACORN, Venture Richmond, Capitol Square Preservation Council, St. Peters Church, the Department of Historic Resources, and the City of Richmond have been invited and are taking part in these meetings.

To generate discussion the design team presented possible scenarios using multiple clay models of the possible sizes structures relative to existing conditions in this section of the city. Conversations centered around how to include underground parking, public retail space at street level with state office space in the upper levels, ways to improve the flow of pedestrian traffic, and what design elements could be used. Building elements discussed included the type of materials that could be used for new construction, how the new building would blend with and its proportion to the nearby existing structures, the entry way to a new building and its connection to the 9th Street Office Building, and the use of public indoor and outdoor spaces. As a way to generate design ideas a variety of photographs of new government structures throughout the nation were viewed.

Community representatives expressed great interest in making the new building at Ninth and Broad Streets the gateway serving as an information source for the Capitol Square area. There was also emphasis on the streetscape of including retail space and a cafeteria in the new structure, while still ensuring the materials used are appropriate and compatible with the surrounding buildings.

The next meeting with community representatives is scheduled for October 11, 2006.